

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, June 5, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Carl Brewer
Treatha Brown-Foster
Gerald Domitrovic
Shane Dundas
Debra K. Miller Stevens
Janice Rich*
Steve Roberts
Inga Taylor
James Thompson
Shontina Tipton
LaVonta Williams

Members Absent

Guests

Lori Lawrence, 321 N. Lorraine
Beverly Domitrovic, 1219 George Washington Blvd
Dale Churchman, 1357 S. Broadway
Dioane Gates, 1103 S. Yale
D. K. Owens, 1043 S. Fern
J. Coslett
Dennis Dye, 6414 Farmview
Sam Coy, 6901 W. 53rd Street North
Ruth Coy, 6901 W. 53rd Street North
John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston
Maunie Neal, 1243 N. Piatt
Glen Dey, 4515 Greenbriar
Joann Hartig, 1756 S. Main
R. McDonald, 255 N. Woodchuck

***Alternates**

City of Wichita Staff Present

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant
Officer Nate Schwiethale, WPD
Officer Doug Gerdes, WPD
Jim Armour, City Engineer
John Schlegel, MAPD

Order of Business

Call to Order

Council Member Carl Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed the guests. He stated that this meeting the board would only be able to provide comment due to the official swearing-in being held on Tuesday, June 6th. He then welcomed the new board members and thanked everyone for applying for a seat on the board.

Approval of Minutes

Tipton stated that her last name is not correct on the members attended list and requested that Pickens be changed to Tipton. **Brewer (Williams)** made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Brewer asked if anyone in the audience would like to be added on the Public Agenda. No one came forth. **Brewer (Roberts)** made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Public Agenda

1. **Kansas Firefighters Museum**

Dale Churchman, Kansas Firefighters Museum, presented information on a proposal for a 99-year lease of Old Engine House No. 6 and sufficient land for an addition to the Kansas Firefighters Museum. A brief history of the fire station was given, as well as, the abandonment of the building and the restoration initiative in 1994. It was in 1994 that Engine House No. 7 was placed on the

Kansas and National Registers of Historic Places. The museum's grand opening took place in 2001. Efforts from this museum were recognized in 2002 when the museum received an Award for Excellence from the Kansas Preservation Alliance. Currently, the museum is opened weekly and has attracted several thousand visitors. At the present time, the museum has outgrown its facilities and expansion is badly needed. Many artifacts and apparatus cannot be displayed due to the lack of space. The museum presently has a lease on the building for the years 1996 – 2016. The purpose of this request is to facilitate seeking grants and funding for the museum and provide land for a 5000 square footprint addition to the museum.

(Mr. Miller's response is in italics)

Miller asked how would the new addition be funding? *We started with no funding when we renovated the museum. Every time a fireman dies, we are given money. We currently have membership dues, receive corporate donations, and are charging \$30 per brick and have 10,000 bricks to sell.* **Brown Foster** asked if they would be able to receive grants with a 99-year lease and has the neighborhood association and Park Board approved this request, and will the City own your new building? *The reason why we are asking for the extended lease is to be eligible for grant funding. The neighborhood and the Park Board have approved the project. The building will belong to the museum. If we were unable to maintain the building for any reason, the building would go to the City of Wichita.* **Williams** stated that getting students into the museum would help with obtaining grants. Hamilton Middle School could tie into programming. *We have and are currently providing tours for school-aged children.* **D. K. Owens, Museum President, 1043 South Fern,** replied that the museum runs thousands of kids through the museum every year. **Miller-Stevens** asked if Lincoln Park is one of the parks owned by the City? **Dr. Glen Dey, Park Board,** responded that the park was originally City-owned. **Brewer** replied that in most cases, we grant 99-year leases for non-profits. *If something happens in future years, we usually help in predicaments so that no one can come in and take the land.* **Thompson** asked who is eligible to become a member? *Any individual can join.* **Dundas** asked if after the lease agreement, an additional request to make the expansion would be necessary? *We would make it a package deal to avoid that problem.*

The board received and filed.

2. Off Agenda Items

No items submitted.

Staff Reports

3. Police Report

Officer Doug Gerdes reported: 43 Beat: Visions Club, 3926 East 13th Street, is a hang out for juvenile and gang members. A curfew sting took place on Friday, June 2nd. Ten arrests were made and kids were taken to JIAC. A shooting occurred at 1:30 a.m. between the Crips and Bloods and one individual was shot. Not sure who the shooter was, but it is turned over to the Gang Unit. We are trying to get the club shut down. The owner has proper Cabaret license, but was denied the chaperones license. We are working with the City's Law Department to have both licensing pulled.

(Officer Gerdes's response is in italics)

Roberts thanked Officer Gerdes for attending their neighborhood association meeting before he was assigned to their beat. He asked if the incident was related to the shooting down south? *Not that I know of.* **Brown Foster** asked if police have met with any of the residents or neighborhood association

members, the ages of the kids, and if there is a stipulation that parents sign kids in? *Yes we have met and have an additional meeting on Thursday. The youngest is 11 years old up to 17 years. It has gone up to 18 years of age. There is no stipulation for signing kids in. That is why they requested the chaperones licensing, but was denied.*

Officer Schwiethale, 22 Beat, reported the following: 1) have a reoccurring problem with the bar called Taboo. The County has purchased the building for the arena expansion; 2) the skate park has been cleaned up from the graffiti incident. Have a 19 and 20 year old suspects who are responsible for 90% of the tagging; 3) homeless situation is being addressed. Working with the Law Department on a No Camping Ordinance to disallow tents being set up in parks.

(Officer Schwiethale's response is in italics)

Williams asked if the skate park is lit all night? *No. WPD has asked for lighting. The tagging occurred due the dark area, however; it is much better than it was. The park is to be closed at dawn, but that curfew has not been enforced.* **Dundas** asked what is the location of the park? *625 South St. Francis under the bridge.* Dundas stated that he does not see officers in the downtown area. *There are currently two officers working the downtown beat and both are pretty busy.*

The board received and filed.

Unfinished Business

No items submitted.

New Business

4. Waterman/Arena Area Improvements

Jim Armour, City Engineer and John Schlegel, MAPD Director, presented four options for improvements at Waterman. Mr. Armour explained that the City Council had requested that this project be presented to the District Advisory Boards for recommendations. He stated that Public Works was scheduled to tear up Waterman and install 48" water main in connection with the arena project. The improvements consist of a large concrete box culvert and the complete reconstruction of Waterman from the Arkansas River to Washington. The intersection of Waterman at Washington will be improved to provide left turn lanes at all four approaches.

The four options for the Waterman roadway are: Option 1. Four 10' traffic lanes with a 6' parking area and a 6' sidewalk on each side of the street. With this option parking is maintained. The disadvantage is the narrow sidewalks; Option 2. Four 11' traffic lanes with 10' sidewalks. The drawback is parking is lost. With the 10' sidewalks, it is safer for pedestrian travel. This option is the best opportunity to create a boulevard look. It becomes a major east and west route due to the Waterwalk and the arena; Option 3. Four 10' traffic lanes with a center 6' median/turn lane and 6' sidewalks. This option has no parking, no trees, and a narrow sidewalk; and Option 4. Four 10' traffic lanes with a center two-way left turn lane and 6' sidewalks. This is similar to #3 where landscaping would be eliminated and no sidewalks or street trees. The council and staff from Public Works and Planning prefer Option 2, because it provides the most access for pedestrians.

(Mr. Armour and Schlegel's responses are in italics)

Dundas asked where the parking garage would be located? *Mr. Armour responded that there would be parking throughout the downtown area. A parking garage will probably be built, but that is yet to be determined. People will have to walk a few blocks.* **Williams** asked when would the renovations

start at Main and Waterman? *The plan for Waterwalk is already designed to come down McLean. Main to Washington is before you tonight.* **Miller Stevens** asked how does Option 2 accommodate traffic with no left turn lane? *Mr. Schlegel responded that the four lanes would carry the projected traffic. During a peak event at the arena is the only time that traffic might be an issue; however, police will direct traffic on those occasions.* **Brown Foster** asked when the arena opens will people on Waterman be accommodated? *Mr. Schlegel responded there is enough parking to accommodate. There are four parking stalls currently along Waterman and two additional blocks filled with parking.* **Stevens** commented that the only concern he has with the Waterman area is if Century II held a huge event. The chances of that happening simultaneously are small. That is the only time we would be concerned with a traffic jam situation. However, Option 2 may not be visionary enough. *Mr. Armour responded that as the City Engineer, the goal is to get traffic flow in and out of downtown for people working, traveling through, and events. Any option will take a lot of education prior to an arena event. Today we move over 10,000 vehicles downtown. Arena event has expectations of approximately 5,000 vehicles. We have a lot of ways to get in and out of downtown and not just Waterman. We believe that with the use of traffic cops, the excess traffic would be manageable.* **Thompson** asked if having a median turn-lane would help reduce traffic? *No. There is a lot more north/south traffic than east and west.* **Mr. Armour** responded that a turning lane would provide turning access, but not reduce traffic. *Mr. Schlegel added that we share your same concerns, but we are also concerned about pedestrian flow and want to create an environment where citizens feel safe to walk.* **Dundas** asked if a Public Transportation System would be used to get people back and forth to parking areas and how would this project presented be funded? *Mr. Schlegel responded that is a good question. The County is looking at a transportation option, which is an additional cost financially. We would have to go with a system similar to the Q Transit.* **Mr. Armour** responded that the City's portion is all but \$1.1 million out of \$7 million. *This project would be paid for out of the Storm Water Utility and Public Works Capital Improvement Program.* **Domitrovic** asked if there is a price difference between these options? *Mr. Armour responded that they are all about the same.*

By a show of hands, District Advisory Board recommended approval of Option 2.

Board Agenda

5. Updates, Issues, and Reports

- **Virdena Gilkey, staff**, presented the new board members their notebooks and asked that they review the information to become knowledgeable about City services. Also, announced the board will hold a second meeting on June 19th. **Brewer** added that a controversial case would be presented that night and asked board to do their homework and be prepared to discuss the issues.
- **Miller Stevens** inquired about the previous case with the signage in the yard. **Brewer** responded that the case was sent back to MAPC for a second hearing and the vote was tied. It is now being submitted to the City Council for a final decision.
- **Brewer** told the board that they would be officially appointed as District Advisory Board members on June 6th and wanted to make sure that they actually want to serve. He stated that they represent the entire district and his expectations are that they are involved in areas that are not just their own. He asked that they come to the meetings prepared to discuss Planning cases, etc. District 1 is known as a board that does their homework. **Brewer** encouraged everyone to be involved as they are the eyes and ears for him in the district. He let them know that they can always be honest with them, even if they do not agree. He stated that 99.9% of the time, he votes with the board's recommendations. He commented that what you do is a strong reflection of each other and what you do directly affects you. Lastly, attendance to DAB meetings is a must. You cannot attend community meetings and then not attend your own board meetings. I want you to think about a first and second Pro-tem to be

appointed next month. These persons would be responsible for running the meeting in my absence.

- **Stevens** asked if the board would receive any information on the budget process? **Brewer** responded that it is a heated budget process this time around. Money is always complicated. Council is standing firm on not tax increase.
- **Brown Foster** reported that the overpass on 21st Street Railroad had their last meeting and will be presenting our recommendations to the District Advisory Board in the next few months. **Thompson** added that the north route entails moving tracks over on Broadway, the south route has been cancelled, and elevating 21st Street would cost \$40 million. We are looking at options for the north route.
- **Dundas** stated that he would like to see a little more focus on the downtown area. Areas have been neglected and there are bricks that need repaired.

The board received and filed.

With no further business, **Brewer (Thompson)** recommended adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virdena Gilkey
Neighborhood Assistant